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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SPC-03 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

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P R 261553Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7818
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS PARIS 7438

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR/FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REPORTS U.S. MAY RENOUNCE 'ATLANTIC CHARTER' PROJECT

1. FRENCH NEWS AGENCY (AGENCY) IN STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON AND PUBLISHED TUESDAY MORNING IN FRANCE SOIR ANNOUNCES THAT "ACCORDING TO A HIGH U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONALITY (WHO COULD BE KISSINGER HIMSELF) WASHINGTON IS REPORTEDLY NOW TEMPTED TO ABANDON THE ATLANTIC CHARTER PROJECT PROPOSED ALMOST A YEAR AGO." REASON, ACCORDING AFP, IS THAT AMERICANS REALIZE THAT CHARTER INITIATIVE, "WHICH WAS TO BE THE SYMBOL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO CONTINENTS", HAS NO FURTHER POINT "IN VIEW OF THE RETICENCE OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES". STORIE ADDS EUROPEANS WOULD THUS NO LONGER BE PURSUED ON THIS QUESTION "AT A MOMENT WHEN, THEY SAY IN WASHINGTON, RELATIONS WITH EUROPE ARE MUCH BETTER THAN THEY WERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO."

2. ABOVE STORY SEEMS CERTAINLY BASED ON MOSCOW-DATELINED DIS-PATCH CARRIED BY AFP MONDAY EVENING. FROM AN "AMERICAN SOURCE" IN MOSCOW, THIS STORY QUOTED A "HIGH AMERICAN PERSONALITY" IN SECRETARY'S ENTOURAGE THAT U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS ARE "MUCH BETTER" THAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO; THAT THIS IMPROVEMENT HAS COME "AFTER RECENT CONVERSATIONS"; AND THAT EUROPEANS "RESPONDED IN A CONCILIATORY FASHION" TO RECENT AMERICAN CRITICISM,
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LEADING U.S. TO BE "MORE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT FUTURE OF ITS RELATIONS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WITH EUROPE. AS FOR PROJECTED EUROPEAN VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON THIS YEAR, STORY WENT ON, "THE SAME SOURCE LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED" BUT THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN ATLANTIC ALLIES ARE IMPROVING AND THE TRUE PROBLEMS ARE FINALLY BEING DISCUSSED." ON SUBJECT OF "NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER", AFP SAID, "WASHINGTON THINKS IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT IT WILL NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY. HOWEVER, THIS PERSONALITY, CONCLUDED, THE CHANGES OF ACHIEVING THIS PROJECT ARE JUST OVER 50 PER CENT."

3. PIECES OF ABOVE STORIES WERE PICKED UP BY PARIS DAILY AURORE TUESDAY, AND GAULLIST PAPER LA NATION MADE OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO THEM IN DISCUSSION OF KISSINGER-BREZHNEV CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW. ON PRIVATE RADIO LUXEMBOURG TUESDAY MORNING, COMMENTATOR GEORGES PENCHENIER SAID THAT "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER EVEN WENT SO FAR SUNDAY AS TO CONFIDE TO JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM TO MOSCOW THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FATE OF THIS DOCUMENT (THE ATLANTIC CHARTER."
STONE

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EO Systematic Review
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